



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service  
655 Parfet Street, Room E200C Lakewood, Colorado 80215  
Phone (720) 544-2808 • Fax (720) 544-2965 • [www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov)

---

Petra Barnes Walker, Public Information Officer  
720-544-2808

## NRCS Offers \$20 Million in Nationally Funded Grant Opportunity

**LAKEWOOD, CO., January 7, 2008** – Arlen Lancaster, Chief for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced the request for proposals for the 2008 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). The CIG grant opportunity has two competitions available in fiscal year (FY) 2008--National and State. The program is designed to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.

**Applications for this National request for proposals must be received in the NRCS National Headquarters by 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST), on Wednesday, February 20, 2008.**

*“CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate transfer and adoption of promising technologies and conservation approaches to address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resource concerns,”* said Lancaster. *“CIG benefits agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement.”*

2008 National CIG funds will be allocated within three categories, including:

- Natural Resource Concerns Category—up to \$10 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG natural resource concerns. This component was also offered in FY 2004, FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007 awards.

- Technology Category—up to \$5 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG technology categories. This component was offered for the first time in FY 2006.

- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Category—up to \$5 million available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG natural resource concerns in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This component was also offered in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. For FY 2008, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will be accepting and reviewing the applications for this category. For information on applying for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Category, please visit [www.nfwf.org/chesapeake](http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake).

Funding for CIG is made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). All proposed CIG projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers. CIG funds that are used to provide direct or indirect payments to individuals or entities to implement structural, vegetative or management practices are subject to the \$450,000 EQIP payment limitation.

CIG is not a research program, but rather a tool to stimulate the adoption of conservation approaches or technologies that have been studied sufficiently to indicate a high likelihood of success, and are likely candidates for eventual technology transfer.

**-more-**

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

For additional information and requirements about applying for National CIG 2008 funds, please visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/index.html>. **Applications must be received in the NRCS National Headquarters by 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST), on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. Applications should be sent to: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Conservation Innovation Grants Program; Financial Assistance Programs Division, Room 5239-S; 1400 Independence Ave, SW; Washington, DC 20250.**

To view the complete Announcement of Program Funding, visit: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Enter NRCS in the Quick Search box, then click on the Submit button. On the Search Results page, look for fr17de07N Conservation Innovation Grants Fiscal Year 2008 Announcement.

To apply electronically visit: <http://www.grants.gov/>. For more information about NRCS conservation programs online, visit: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, or visit the nearest USDA Service Center in your area.

**-end-**